

Dear FCC,

I have recently learned of your proposed regulations regarding radio.

First of all let me tell you how much listener supported radio has meant to me in the recent years. I live in Phoenix, AZ and listen to KLOVE (105.5, 89.1), Air1 (88.7, 89.9) and KFLR (90.3) on a regular basis. They provide comfort and encouragement to me to be a good citizen, brother, son and co-worker. Above all else provide music that sings to my soul and allows me to glimpse the beauty of a God that loves me unconditionally and all-encompassing. I recently went through a painful divorce and the music and commentary available in these stations have been invaluable in my healing from this devastation. Even now, two years after the divorce the music and speaking are a daily part of my life that I count on.

I don't know what I would listen to – probably not other radio – if these listener supported stations were forced to modify their content or due to financial constraints have to stop broadcasting. I understand a new regulation would force these stations to be subject to Community Advisory Boards, which would be able to dictate and modify content or commentary provided on these stations. I disagree completely with this proposal. I feel this is very close to, if not already, an infringement on our Freedom of Speech, declared in the Bill of Rights. What happened to these rights? Are we so afraid of conflict or the truth that we are selling our freedom so that no one is offended? If people are flipping through radio frequencies and they hear Air1, and they don't like it, they have the freedom to change the channel. Just as right now, I disagree with a lot of music played on other stations, but that's their freedom to play that music or say what THEY want to say. An advisory panel will water down the voices of the community. Cities will only hear what that group sees as appropriate. Where is our freedom? Freedom of Speech. Freedom of Religion/Faith? It is a scary prospect to think that the content provided by a station, paid for by citizens of this FREE country – i.e. listener supported radio – would have to be subject to a filter of a small group of people in this advisory panel. If this is a government run panel, then it's the *government* that is now controlling our radio and our speech. This change may seem like a small change to the current rules, but the changes are a big concern for me, and I see my rights to listen to the stations I WANT to listen to being infringed.

A similar proposal, is the idea that these listener supported stations be forced to give air time to people or groups that do not agree with the purpose or the guiding principles of the radio station. In some ways this may seem like it's protecting against discrimination, however on the reverse side is infringing on rights of Freedom to provide the content the radio station wants to provide. This is not necessarily, discrimination but *discernment*. Why would a station who believed A, be forced to have someone who believed B to have airtime and promote an opposing view. It would be like forcing a presidential candidate to give the opposing candidate time during their own speech. This would cause mixed messages and a breakdown in listener support. If the listener support is not there, then the radio station cannot support itself and will have to close its doors. I do not want this to happen.

As a side note: I'm "offended" on daily basis by media of *all* types, but that *is* freedom. Freedom does not mean I always get my "way" and no one can ever say anything that I disagree with or don't want to hear. When I am told what I can and cannot say, that's oppression and is what people fought against for years in the Soviet Union, and currently in other government controlled, overly moderated countries. I love America too much to stand by and let my freedoms be taken from me little by little and one by one. Do not pass this regulation.

On another note, I understand that there is a part to these regulations that would require more staffing for minimally staffed or automated stations. I feel this is not very important and should not be mandated. Is it not up to the radio stations of all types to run their radio as they want to? Automated or managed by hired staff? Some of the stations I mentioned above rely only on listener gifts and the new regulation to hire more staff would create a financial burden that would seriously affect them. Please make it affordable and reasonable for stations to broadcast to the largest population possible. This is very important.

Thank you for reading this and considering my arguments. In summary: 1). Having an advisory panel will damage and restrict our freedom of speech and religion, 2). Forcing stations to open up air time to groups or individuals that do not agree with the principles of the station will have a domino effect in which stations may be forced to close or compromise their principles. 3). If automated systems are reliable and do not require much manual maintenance, stations should be able to use these tools to broadcast to a larger area.

Please do not take away our freedoms. They are a cornerstone of this country.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Meyer